

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 20428 080639Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 SES-02 SAA-01 SSM-05 ISO-00
/094 W

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O 080628Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3462
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS CAIRO 20428

USICA FOR PGM/RC

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR EG IS US XF
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF CAMP DAVID: GETTING
- DOWN TO BUSINESS

SUMMARY. PRESS CONVEYS IMPRESSION THAT CAMP DAVID CONFERENCE IS NOW ATTACKING SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES RELATED TO THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, WITH PRESIDENT CARTER REPORTEDLY HAVING PRESENTED "NEW AMERICAN IDEAS AND ALTERNATIVES." ISRAEL ACCUSED OF "MANEUVERING,"

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WITH GUMHURIYYA CLAIMING THAT ISRAEL HAS LEAKED U.S. PROPOSALS CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL AFTER FIVE YEARS FROM WEST BANK AND GAZA, TO BE FOLLOWED BY ARAB SOVEREIGNTY. PAPERS CONTINUE TO INSIST AMERICAN ROLE VITAL AND U.S. MUST TAKE DECISIVE STAND. END SUMMARY.

1. SUMMIT MEETINGS ATTACKING PROBLEMS. AHRAM AND AKHBAR HEADLINES SEPTEMBER 8 CONVEY IMPRESSION THAT CAMP DAVID

MEETINGS HAVE MOVED INTO AN "IMPORTANT STAGE," WITH SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION. AHRAM (NO SOURCE) PROCLAIMS PRESIDENT CARTER PRESENTED "NEW IDEAS AND ALTERNATIVES"; SADAT SAID TO BE "STUDYING THOSE," PRIOR TO OFFERING AMENDMENTS. AKHBAR (ALSO UNSOURCED) CLAIMS TALKS ARE CONCENTRATING ON THE WEST BANK; UNIDENTIFIED AMERICAN SOURCES QUOTED AS SAYING PRESIDENT CARTER SUBMITTED DETAILED PLAN ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. AMERICAN PRESIDENT, HEADLINES SAY, DOES NOT WANT AMBIGUOUS FORMULA BUT IS WORKING FOR CLEAR-CUT PRINCIPLES. (PAPERS QUOTE UNIDENTIFIED U.S. AND EGYPTIAN SOURCES TO JUSTIFY HEADLINE TREATMENT.) REINFORCING IMPRESSION THAT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES NOW BEING ATTACKED, PAPERS HIGHLIGHT JODY POWELL'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE MEETINGS WILL CONTINUE OVER WEEKEND.

2. CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM. AHRAM, DRAWING ON NEWS AGENCY REPORTS, SAYS AMERICAN OFFICIALS CLOSE TO THE CONFERENCE ARE "CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC" ON RESULTS THUS FAR. PAPERS NOTE TWO SESSIONS WERE HELD YESTERDAY, IN ADDITION TO BILATERAL U.S.-ISRAELI AND U.S. EGYPTIAN MEETINGS. APPARENTLY DRAWING ON POWELL BRIEFING, GUMHURIYYA PREDICTS SUMMIT WILL CONTINUE FOR TWO WEEKS.

3. ISRAELI MANEUVERING. GUMHURIYYA BANNER HEADLINES ISRAEL IS MANEUVERING TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE CONFERENCE.
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HODA TEWFIK CLAIMS ISRAEL "DELIBERATELY LEAKED" PROPOSALS, ATTRIBUTED TO U.S., WHICH CALL FOR: WITHDRAWAL FROM WEST BANK AND GAZA AFTER FIVE YEARS, CONTINUATION OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS (WITH FREEZE ON NEW CONSTRUCTION), AND ARAB SOVEREIGNTY OVER AREA FOLLOWING TRANSITION PERIOD. TEWFIK CLAIMS ISRAEL TRIED TO BEGIN TALKS WITH SINAI, BUT SAYS SADAT INSISTED ON STARTING WITH WEST BANK, GAZA, AND PALESTINIAN ISSUES.

4. COMMENTARIES. OBVIOUSLY ACTING ON OFFICIAL GUIDANCE, ALL PAPERS REMAIN RESTRAINED IN EDITORIAL COMMENT ON CAMP DAVID. AHRAM LIMITS ITSELF TO NOTING THAT SECRECY SURROUNDING SUMMIT MUST LIFT WITH ITS CONCLUSION: AMERICA WILL HAVE TO DECLARE RESULTS TO ANXIOUS WORLD. AKHBAR, WITHOUT DRAWING CONCLUSION, QUESTIONS WHETHER MEETINGS WILL LEAD TO JUST PEACE OR TO MERE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, SUBJECT TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. GUMHURIYYA, TAKING ISSUE WITH DAVAR, ARGUES ON NEED FOR FULL WITHDRAWAL AND GUARANTEES FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS TO ESTABLISH LASTING PEACE. AHRAM BOARD CHAIRMAN ALI HAMDI AL GAMAL CONTINUES INSIST CAMP DAVID OUTCOME DEPENDS ON AMERICA. GAMAL NOTES CARTER ATTENDING CONFER-

ENCE IN DEFENSE OF U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS. BEGIN, HOW-
EVER, IS THERE ONLY IN ATTEMPT CHANGE HIS IMAGE WITH
U.S. PUBLIC. MATTHEWS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO20428
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780365-0940
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780985/aaaacrq.tel
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Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1494213
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF CAMP DAVID: GETTING - DOWN TO BUSINESS SUMMARY. PRESS CONVEYS IMPRESSION THAT CAMP DAVID
TAGS: PEPR, EG, IS, US, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2a7d7053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014